

DISTRICT III ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 3, 2002

7:00 p.m.

Colvin Neighborhood City Hall, 2820 S. Roosevelt

Members Present

Matt Foley
Chantelle Brennan
Jim Gulick
Lois Ann Newman
Judy Dillard
Phil Bloomquist
Bill Ward
Council Member Phil Lambke

Members Absent

Gene Fuhr
Phyllis Hall
John Kemp
Jim Skelton

Staff

Vicki Mork

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Phil Lambke called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made to approve minutes as read.

Action: Approved by vote of 7-0. Bloomquist(Gulick)

Approval of Agenda

Motion was made to move Public Works ahead of Public Agenda

Action: Approved by vote of 7-0. Bloomquist(Gulick)

Public Works

1. **Jim Armour**, Construction and Survey (CMF) of the Public Works department began the presentation on improvements to Harry Street from Oliver to Woodlawn by introducing **Tom Ruggles** with Savoy, Ruggles and Bohm P.A. He explained the design objective is to expand the street to five lanes with left turn bays. Option #1 is the most feasible alternative as it can be placed within existing right of ways by taking about 5-6' off of each side of the street. It is the most efficient and least expensive alternative presented. It will join the five lane pavement just west of

Woodlawn. The project will be built on the existing road pavement using it as a base. This contributes to cost containment. The project will not impact on the grades for the adjoining property.

Kay Inkamish of 5708 E. Harry asked how much of her front yard would be lost to widening the road. She explained she has a special needs child and has a number of care providers in and out of her home on a regular basis and she is concerned about parking for them. She asked if her drive way could be widened.. **Jim Armour** took her name, address and phone number saying he would work the matter out with her. **Carolyn Marlo** of 1941 Jeanette asked about the time line for the project, she was told it would begin in April 2003 and be done around November 1, 2003. **Kay** asked about the impact of the improvements on her property value but **Jim** replied that he wasn't qualified to answer that question. **Jim** completed the presentation saying there were a few trees on the North side of the street that would have to be removed and he says the property owners are in agreement. They are trying to preserve as many trees as they can and will transplant some.

2. **Jim Armour** then introduced **Willis Wilson, Consulting Engineer with MKEC and Kara McCluskey, Project Engineer with MKEC**. **Willis Wilson** explained the Southeast Transmission Main represents 7.5 miles of 36" water line that will extend from Laura and Morris to K-15 and 63rd Street. The project is two fold, it will supply water to Derby and increase water pressure for Southeast Wichita. The project will be done in four phases: the first phase will begin at 63rd Street and extend to just south of the turnpike; the second phase will involve two borings to cross the turnpike and the canal; the third phase will cover the area from the turnpike to Pawnee and the fourth phase will extend from Pawnee to Laura and Morris. The line will run along the west side of K-15 and as a result will not affect private property.

The final or fourth phase of the project hasn't been designed yet but generally speaking the line will be laid down the center of Laura Street, the construction will close one lane but traffic will remain open and there will be no work in anyone's yard. Construction will begin in mid-July and finish around April 4, 2003. **Matt Foley** asked how long Laura Street would be torn up, **Willis** replied he wasn't sure since that segment hadn't been designed yet but he estimates it will take 1-2 months, depending upon the weather.

Action: Receive and file the report

Staff Reports

3. **Council Member Lambke** introduced **Catherine Holdeman**, Assistant City Manager to present information on new policies formulated by the Alternative Correctional Housing Board. **Cathy** introduced **Kent Sisson**, head of the Kansas Department of Correction state parole office and **Rosalee Bradley**, chair of the Alternative Correctional Housing Board. **Cathy** explained the issue of reintegrating returning offenders has many facets to it and represents many difficult problems. She referred

to the recent Wichita Assembly that focused on the same issues and some DAB III members were in attendance. She explained the background for the evening's topic was the ordinance passed by the City Council preventing the housing of sex offenders in locations near families and children. The ordinance has been suspended for 90 days to allow for resolution of the issue of where and how to house returning sex offenders producing the most protection for society and the best outcomes for the parolees. The Alternative Correctional Housing Board has produced a series of policy options as potential solutions to this problem

Referring to the statistics contained in the report Cathy explained they support the contention that when offenders return to the community and participate in treatment programs and live in supervised housing they have the lowest recidivism rates. The challenge for the Wichita community is to address a successful re-integration plan, which addresses public safety demands of residents and provides housing, employment and needed services to the offender. Cathy asked DAB III members to review the four options they had received and make a recommendation to the Alternative Correctional Housing Board. She said the Board favored Option 3 which would permit grand fathering in three existing facilities, two Mirror Inc facilities and Dodge House.

These three facilities could be required to have proper lighting, an environmental design, staff enforcing curfews with residents signing-in and out, resident ID's and provide the residents' treatment plans to Wichita Police Department. These centers could serve as a catalyst to involve neighbors with WPD through increased education and training efforts such as expanding or establishing Neighborhood Watch and Neighborhood Patrol programs. They could be tailored to address neighborhood issues about personal safety. These efforts are already happening at the Tobin facility.

Other options could include limiting the number of sex offenders assigned to a facility, for example the Tobin facility is licensed for 60 beds and they currently have 28 offenders. At any rate, the plan of supervision for the facility could be disclosed to the neighbors and the police to increase their feeling of safety. DAB member, **Matt Foley** asked if these procedures were happening at this time and **Cathy** responded that in many cases they were occurring but the goal is uniformity between all three centers.

Bill Ward, also a DAB III member asked what provision was being made for neighbors who couldn't afford their own security systems. **Cathy** said there was no provision for that alternative as the approach of the Alternative Correctional Housing Board was more educational. **Bill** replied having these at risk individuals in the neighborhood at concentrated levels was unsafe. **Kent Sisson** said if the individual was required to be registered they would be, however not all offenders are required to register depending upon their offense and when it occurred.

Judy Dillard, DAB member asked about the KDOC contract and **Cathy** replied that not all offenders are referred from them. Ken Sisson responded that KDOC has budget limitations and they aren't able to contract for all offenders released. **Judy** stated that 28 beds out of the 60 beds total at Tobin was too high of a percentage for a sex offender population. But she also stated she had no idea what to do with the rest of the offenders.

DAB member **Lois Ann Newman** referred to Option #2, the community education dialogue inquiring about the frequency it would be occurring. **Cathy** stated it was ongoing. **Lois Ann** expressed doubt about that. **Officer Virgil Miller** stated Community Policing worked with neighborhoods setting up watch programs. **Cathy** also felt Neighborhood Patrol would be a positive factor for the affected neighborhoods also. There are 7 facilities that accept sexual offenders but only 3 of them are in question, Tobin is located in an industrial area at 37th St. N. and Rock Road, the other Mirror facility is in the 200 block of South Pattie and Dodge House is located at Murdock and St. Francis.

Cathy asked for suggestions from DAB III. **Judy Dillard** asked how we as a community could get ahead of this problem and **Cathy** responded it could be done if we are engaged as a community and build relationships with The Department of Corrections in Topeka and their staff here.

Jim Gulick, DAB III member said that although Option 3 was the preferred solution, he needed more time to review the information carefully. Since DAB III is meeting again on 4-17-2001 he wondered if the issue could be deferred until then. **Cathy** felt that a response at that time would meet the deadlines of the Alternative Correctional Housing Board.

Recommended Action: Deferred making a recommendation until the 4-17-2002 meeting. Gulick(Bloomquist) passed 7-0.

New Business

4. Off-agenda Item—Council member Lambke reminded the audience that the City Council had recently passed an ordinance permitting a vote on May 21 for a sales tax increase to fund the Dyna-Plex, an 18,000 seat downtown arena. He urged the DAB members to become familiar with the actual ordinance as the way it is written it obligates the city to pledge full faith and credit for the issuance of the Industrial Revenue Bonds meaning that ad valorem tax dollars could be used to satisfy the bond payments if for some reason the sales tax revenue was not enough. **Council member Lambke** stated he opposed the proposition as the proposal will roll back a 1% tax and rebate ½ % by car dealers. He feels like it's a rebate for people who can most afford the tax if they are buying a new car while the average citizen buying clothes, groceries and other necessities will bear the tax on all of those purchases except for the old folks like him. He pointed out that originally car dealers opposed the proposal however they changed their perspective with this addition.

According to **CM Lambke** backing the issuance of the IRB's with the full faith and credit of Wichita is standard legal procedure and most beneficial to the buyer of the bonds as it means that if the sales tax doesn't cover the cost of the bonds then the city has the right to use funds from property taxes. **Matt Foley** expressed concern that that might affect other items dependent upon budgeted property taxes.

CM Lambke explained the rebate process in response to Phil Bloomquist's inquiry. **Judy Dillard** stated there was a bill pending in the Kansas legislature to return any car tax collected from an out of county buyer to their county of residence. This could impact the ordinance in its present form severely. She asked where was the public-private partnership that has been evident in so many other recent projects. She felt \$100,000 was an inadequate partnership amount.

Abdul Raheen of 1731 S. Edgemoor spoke from the audience saying he had written to Mayor Bob Knight. He is deeply concerned about the project and feels he can support it only if the city's youth are included, if they are not then the project may be boycotted. He also felt reducing the tax on new car purchases to 4.9% in Sedgwick County was not fair to all of the citizens. He questioned if now was the best time for increasing the city's indebtedness.

DAB member **Foley** stated he thought the current track record of publicly funded projects was rather dismal. He wondered if the track record of Lawrence Dumont stadium or the ice rink would indicate the Dynaplex is a good idea. Wondered if we could request budget information from them?

Joann Hartig of 1756 S. Main expressed concern about traffic egress from a stadium downtown. While **Abdul Raheen** stated he felt Wichita needed a downtown venue.

Board Agenda

5. **Community Policing Reports – Jamie Crouch**, Community Policing Officer for Planeview reported the results of his recent survey taken within the neighborhood. He felt that recent effort towards rapid eradication of graffiti from known locations had been successful as evidenced by close surveillance over Spring Break revealed no new tags.

He informed the meeting that effective Monday, April 8th WPD officers on bikes began patrolling Planeview. They plans to continue efforts for Neighborhood education through face to face contacts with residents. This is especially important as the weather warms up and residents are out and about more. They advise residents to lock their doors and park in the lights. They will patrol from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. and are targeting activities in the park.

Gerry Myers of 2138 Chatauqua, President of the Mead Association stated he thought in his neighborhood the police were too apparent on their bicycles. They are real conspicuous and didn't feel they were effective, as their neighborhood had

experienced 6 residential burglaries in two weeks. They had recruited more neighbors to participate in Neighborhood Watch.

Jan Chatman, supervisor with the city's Park and Recreation Department asked what they could do to bolster the Police efforts and **Jamie** suggested they continue to be vigilant about graffiti reporting it promptly. He also thought more lighting around the Soap Box Derby area would be very helpful.

Community Policing Officer Virgil Miller, covering the area of South City, reported a very successful Polar Bear Plunge and thanked everyone for their contributions. He said it was a successful fundraiser for the Special Olympics. He continues working on the same issues, neighborhood crime and has been working with Environmental Health Officer Shane Hackworth. **Community Policing Officer Jeff Andres** also introduced himself saying he covered from Santa Fe to I-35 and Kellogg to Pawnee.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:39 pm by Jim Gulick (Brennan).

Visitors

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| Paul Davis | 6417 S. Madison Ct |
| Abdul Rahin | 1731 S. Edgemoor |
| Officer Jeff Andres | WPD |
| Officer Jamie Crouch | WPD |
| Officer Virgil Miller | WPD |
| Jan Chatman | Park & Rec |
| Melody Stucky | 2756 Mason |
| Willis Wilson | MKEC |
| Kara McCluskey | MKEC |
| Shirley Foster | 1537 S. Battin |
| Gerry Myers | 2138 S. Chautauqua |
| Joann Hartig | 1756 S. Main |
| Kay Inkamish | 5708 E. Harry |
| Alberta Clark | 1717 Woodland |
| Alan Marlow | 1941 Jeanette |
| Carolyn Marlow | 1941 Jeanette |
| Dorothy Hagnauer | 2702 Greenwood |
| Rick Putnam | 61000 E. Harry |
| Rosalie Bradley | 1401 Julianne |
| Kent Sisson | Kansas State Dept of Corrections |
| Nancy Coates | 1857 S. Greenwood |
| Cathy Holdeman | Asst. City Manager |